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LETTER DATED 11 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in flagrant violation of international law and, in particular, of the interim measures of protection ordered by the International Court of Justice on 16 March 1996, has just held municipal elections, on 5 and 6 December 1998, in the occupied part of Cameroonian territory in the Bakassi Peninsula.

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, together with a note of protest addressed to the Nigerian Government.

I should be grateful if you would have this correspondence distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Martin BELINGA EBOUTOU
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of Cameroon to the United Nations

Annex

Letter dated 10 December 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Nigerian authorities organized local (municipal) elections on 5 and 6 December 1998 in the occupied part of Cameroonian territory in the Bakassi Peninsula.

The agreement of the new Nigerian authorities on 24 November 1998 to proceed to an exchange of prisoners of war between our two countries gave grounds for hope for a change of attitude in favour of a peaceful and jurisdictional settlement of the frontier dispute.

The holding of a ballot in the Bakassi area is a source of great concern to the Government of my country, since it constitutes an act of serious provocation and is in flagrant violation of international law and, in particular, of the interim measures of protection ordered by the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 16 March 1996.

I have therefore, on instructions from my Government, today addressed the attached note of protest to the Nigerian authorities.

The Government of my country would like once again to draw the attention of the international community to the situation in Bakassi, a situation which should continue to merit special attention since the Nigerian authorities, while waging a public relations campaign on the international level, are also reinforcing their military contingent on the front and committing acts contrary to good neighbourliness and peace between States.

My country, which remains deeply attached to the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, would like to continue to count on your efforts to promote peace in general and more particularly in Central Africa.

(Signed) Augustin KONTCHOU KOUEMEGNI
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Note verbale dated 10 December 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon to the Embassy of Nigeria in Yaounde

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and has the honour to refer to the holding by the Nigerian Government of local elections in the occupied part of the Bakassi Peninsula on 5 and 6 December 1998.

The Government of Cameroon wishes to point out that activities of this nature in the occupied part of its territory not only are incompatible with good neighbourly relations and contrary to the long term interests of the two countries, but also constitute a serious violation of international law and demonstrate a lack of willingness to find a definitive peaceful solution to this dispute.

Moreover, this act is in manifest violation of the interim measures of protection ordered by the International Court of Justice on 16 March 1996.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon would be grateful if the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria would communicate this protest to its Government.